

DAILY REVIEW OF THE ARABIC PRESS



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EMBASSY OF THE U.S.A., CAIRO-EGYPT.

MORNING PAPERS.

TUESDAY August 3rd, 1948.

Palastine.

The Arabic press continues to show keen interest in the Palestinian affair especially in the question of the Arab refugees. Several columns are devoted to stories by Reuter, A.P., U.I., A.H.A. and private correspondents concerning the Security Council's debate on the refugees, but there is little editorial comment.

According to Al Misri, Count Bernadotte made the following statement at a press conference at Amman: "Two important questions are now the subject of my discussions with the Arab and Jewish authorities, namely that of the Arab refugees and that of the demilitarisation of Jerusalem. I am doing my best to assist in solving the problem of the refugees and have asked assistance of U.N.O. for this purpose. Despite the difficulties facing the refugees' return to their homes and the Jewish refusal to let them return until a final settlement of the Palestine question is reached, I believe I have the full right to do so and I have expressed this view in a cable to the Security Council".

Replying to a question whether he believes - if he succeeds in making arrangements for the return of the Arab refugees - that they should remain under Jewish rule pending a final solution of the question, the mediator said, "If I succeed in this mission and am able to arrange for the return of the refugees, I consider they should stay under the rule of whatever authorities exercise power in the area in question until a final solution is arrived at; but I want to stress that they must enjoy full rights of citizenship".

In answer to a question whether he thought necessary to seek help from the IRO Bernadotte said; "I called Sir Raphael Sollonto, Director of the department of social affairs of U.N.O. in order to charge him with the care of the refugee question. He has in fact arrived and I have no doubt that he will take all the necessary measures and will contact all

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the appropriate international organisations including the IRO to aid in solving this problem".

The Amman correspondent of Al Misri writes: "Many Arab leaders at Amman are asking: "Why Egypt and the other Arab countries do not return the refugees back to the Arab occupied parts of Palestine and spend on them there what they are spending on them in Egypt and other Arab countries. By doing so, the refugees will feel that they are near their homes and the mediator will realise that the Arabs are determined to make the Arab refugees return to their homes. It is understood that this proposal will be sent to the Arab League secretariat for submission to the Political Committee at its first meeting.

The Palestinian refugees.

Under the above heading, Al Misri writes: "The question of the Palestinian refugees is the most important subject discussed by the Arabs and Count Bernadotte at present. The Security Council is also discussing the same problem, but while we do not know yet what ruling will the Council give on this matter, one thing is clear to us and that is these refugees are the inhabitants of Palestine who fled from the terrorist Jewish gangs. It is strange that there should be an objection or hesitation concerning the return of these refugees to their homes. They are the same as a landlord who fled from the house to escape an attack from an armed gangster. He remains the landlord after he leaves his home and he has every right to return to it if he wishes to do so. We do not believe that it was proper to include the return of these refugees in the Arab conditions for the acceptance of the truce. They should return to Palestine, at least to the Arab-controlled parts, truce or no truce. We fail to understand why this question was allowed to become the subject of discussion at the United Nations. They are neither emigrants nor displaced persons as Bernadotte prefers to call them sometimes. This matter must not be allowed to become an object for bargaining".

Al Siyass agitates against the Jews.

Al Siyassa, mouthpiece of the Liberal Constitutional party (Hussein Heikal Pasha) publishes an editorial by Deputy Mahmud Abulrihab in which he says: "The war which we are fighting in Palestine showed how hateful and dirty the Jews are. They are inhuman. They have no honour. They must be punished. I believe that the most effective way to punish the Jews is to boycott them economically. The Arabs must not set foot inside Jewish shops. We must take nothing to

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do with them. Any person seen entering a Jewish shop should be tried for high treason".-----

The Jews are now blamed for the latest explosion.

Al Siyassa and Al Ikhwan Al Muslimoun (Moslem Brotherhood) suggest that the Gattegno and Benzion outrages were committed by the Jews.

Al Ahram condemns the outrages.
"They do not make sense".

Under the headline: "These crimes. It is the duty of the public to help in catching the criminals", Al Ahram writes: "Some serious incidents took place lately. Explosions were planted in some places which led to loss of lives and property, but it would be unfair to say that these individual cases represent the spirit of the Egyptian people who know their duty. This is proved by the fact that not only were these outrages the object of abhorrence by the authorities but also by the public. They are all agreed that no Egyptian in his right mind who is concerned about his country's reputation would do a thing like this which is completely void of any sign of manhood or humanity but on the contrary shows a high degree of treachery and disrespect for the authorities.

"We see no sense in these outrages. They certainly could not be prompted by a desire to serve the Arab cause, for such incidents could only harm Arab reputation. Moreover, the explosions resulted in hurting Egyptians only and most of the property that was damaged was Egyptian property.

"The government will give LE 10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of the criminals, and it is the duty of the public to cooperate with the police in catching these criminals. The Egyptian people hate cowardice and terrorism, and they will prove their abhorrence of these crimes by helping the police catch the cowards who planted the bombs".-----

Did the British make promises
to Al Mahdi Pasha?

Al Ahram reports that Abdelrahman Al Mahdi Pasha, the well-known Islamic Sudanese leader sent a special envoy to the Emperor of Ethiopia with a letter asking if he would use his good offices to induce the British government carry out the promises made to him by Mr Attlee during his visit to London. Al Ahram adds that the nature of these promises is unknown.

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A testimony.

Under the above heading, Al Ikhwan Al Muslimoun publishes a short editorial in which it says that the French Newsagency reported in a story this morning that Senator Mahmud Abul Fath, the proprietor of Al Misri, made a statement to the reporters in New York that the Jews of Egypt behaved very well during the Palestine campaign and that they contributed to the war effort. Al Ikhwan asks if Jewish contributions were in the shape of money paid to Abul Fath personally, and concludes that the Jews of Egypt were not only a nuisance to Egypt but a positive threat to her safety.

"Our attitude towards war".

Under the above headline, Rose El Yussuf writes: "Few people believe that a world war will break out. But should it break out, what will our attitude be? We cannot remain neutral for we do not have the strength to defend our neutrality and the big powers will not respect our desire to be neutral. Supposing therefore that we join the Democracies, what shall we do if Israel also adopts the same policy? If Israel joins the democratic camp, the Arab countries and Israel will have to be allied together. The least we should do therefore is to wait until Israel joins one of the parties and then we may join its enemies".-----

Misri Effendi uncertain.

Rose El Yussuf publishes a poem which reads something like this: (Misri Effendi talking):

"I don't know what party I should support or oppose.
Shall I oppose John Bull who has been my ally for years
And years,
And when he won the war with my help I discovered he was
A snake?
Or shall I oppose Truman who has the dollar,
Truman who bought the world but sold his honour and religion
To Cohen and Company?
Or shall I oppose Stalin the God of Communism,
And enemy of Capitalism, who became hundred per cent fascist
When the Jews called on him for help?
They all have no honour or character.
They are the butchers of peace, curse them.
Their manners and religion are different from mine,
So I oppose them all.
